

## South Puget Forest Land Planning

### Belfair

Stakeholder Informal Meeting, May 22 2005

#### Summary of Input

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with its planning effort for forested state trust lands in the South Puget planning unit, which generally includes state trust ownerships throughout the greater central Puget Sound region—the I-90 corridor including Tiger Mountain, the McDonald Ridge /Grass Mountain area, the Elbe /Tahoma area, and the Kitsap Peninsula including Green Mountain and the Tahuya and Sherwood forests.

Information gathered from this and subsequent public meetings and other input will assist DNR in developing management strategies specifically for these areas. Following are comments / ideas about three main subject areas gathered at the Issaquah stakeholder meeting attended by representatives of many recreation and environmental groups, trust beneficiaries, and forest products industries.

#### Public Safety, Access, and Abuse

- There is a safety concern with shooting along Hurd Road.
- ORVs and motorcycles are going around closed gates.
- Regular maintenance of all campgrounds and trailheads is needed.
- Gold Creek Trailhead and trail needs better maintenance and more law enforcement.
- Unlimited ORV use in the Tahuya is a concern.
- The trail mileage ceiling and maximum trail development policy has not been honored.
- More law enforcement is needed.
- Hunting and ORV recreational uses are not compatible with one another and could result in serious injuries.
- Traditional hunting and fishing access has been impeded over the last 10 to 20 years due to the expansion of organized and unorganized 4X4 and motorcycle use.
- There is diminishing access to roads and users have been pushed out of their activity areas.
- 4X4 access was closed in 1992 on Green Mt. due to trash, vandalism, and crime, but users would like to re-introduce 4X4 opportunities to the area.
- Illegal ORV users in the Sherwood Creek Area are destroying newly planted seedlings and dumping garbage, which is wasting volunteer time and money.
- Sherwood Forest has not restricted access to the public enough.
- The Salmon Enhancement Group is worried about access to areas in the Sherwood Forest for emergency response and touring public officials.
- Enforcement is not keeping ORV's on trails.
- There is a shallow aquifer and water recharge area on Green Mountain.
- There are some isolated blocks in Kitsap County that if blocked up would help with forest management, habitat protection, and maintaining water recharge zones.
- The communication towers on top of Green Mountain distract from the visual aesthetics of the area.
- Western hemlock is dying on Green Mountain.

- There is a proposal to turn Green Mountain into a demonstration/ research forest and keep it a working forest.
- Want to continue brush leases for products like ferns and salal.
- There is concern about forestry activities in proximity to Sherwood Creek because water temperatures are rising, more light is penetrating the canopy, and there is increased run-off.
- DNR riparian buffers are not adequate for protecting salmon.
- There is nineteen miles of stream data collected for Sherwood Creek that is available to DNR.
- People are upset with thinnings in which trees are left 150 feet apart and not planted correctly afterwards.
- The Salmon Enhancement Group wants more volunteers.
- The West block of the Tahuya is non-motorized.
- There are not safe, non-motorized trails for bicycle riders.
- Developments are being built close to state land.
- Recreation visitors are using Tin Creek Trail.
- There are erosion problems on some of the ORV trails.
- Some trails should be closed and moved due to environmental concerns, but the number of trail miles should remain constant.
- Sherwood State Forest does not have a pheasant release site.
- There are not 4x4 trails to meet the needs of users.
- 4X4 users want more opportunities, but it takes lots of work to maintain the trail.

## **Habitat and Forest Management**

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## **Recreation**

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